

DETROIT NEWSPAPER STRIKE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, tonight I want to take a few moments to pay tribute to some of the bravest and the strongest people that I know, those 2,000 men and women who are taking on two of the largest and the wealthiest and the most powerful corporations in our country, those 2,000 men and women who are standing strong in Detroit against Gannett and Knight-Ridder, those 2,000 men and women who have put their lives on hold for two years, been challenged economically, physically, emotionally, but are fighting for fairness and for justice and for what they believe in.

They are people like Kate DeSmet and Sandra Davis, they are people like Frank Brabanec and Stephen Olter, Mark Naumoff and Ben Solomon. They are the people that I met with last weekend when we held a rally and a march and did a civil action against those who would deny the over 2,000 men and women in Detroit their jobs at these newspapers.

We had over 120,000 people attend a rally in support of these brave men and women. Last Saturday morning I heard Frank Brabanec tell of being struck in the head, beaten, drug across the pavement. I saw hundreds of people holding picket signs with a picture of him being kicked. I heard Stephen Olter tell of being struck with a baton and a metal nut launched from a sling shot. I heard Mark Naumoff tell of being pinned under a gate when a truck knocked off its hinges and knocked it into a peaceful picket. I heard of Ben Solomon being handcuffed and then having pepper sprayed in his eyes.

These are the stories of the voices of the Detroit Newspaper lockout. They are the struggles that these men and women go through nearly every day as they fight for what is right. They are the same struggles our parents and our grandparents fought for, bled for, and sometimes died for. But they are the struggles that brought us a decent wage, that brought us pensions and health benefits, that brought us the weekend, that brought us safe working standards, that brought us overtime pay, that brought us all the things that help make the middle class in our country today and make our country as productive and as wealthy as it is.

They are the struggles that have raised the standards of living for every single American citizen, whether they belong to a union or not. We owe them a thank you. We owe them a thank you, not a kick in the side, as they were given in their efforts to bring justice to the workplace.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, I say thank you to Frank and Stephen and to Mark and Ben, and to everyone who has fought for the dignity of American workers. I also stand with you. This is a struggle for human rights, for fair-

ness and for justice; it is a struggle worth fighting for, and I can tell these workers, and I can tell 120,000 people who came from all over the country last weekend. In fact, we had people come from Europe to stand with our brothers and sisters, that we will win this struggle, because the News and the Free Press, the two papers in Detroit owned by Gannett and Knight-Ridder are wrong, they are disobeying the law, they are guilty, they are guilty of disrespect for the law by keeping these workers out.

A judge just last week ruled that they conducted themselves with unfair labor practices. They need to return these people to work so they can provide for their families. And we will be talking about this issue as we talked about the issue of the workers, the strawberry workers in California who are struggling to be able to be recognized with a decent wage and decent benefits. We will be talking about workers struggling in the poultry facilities in the Carolinas or the textile mills in the South or the steel workers at Pittston or the Caterpillar workers who have been struggling for years. These are American workers who deserve the respect of their government, of the corporate leaders in this country, and certainly their citizens.

So again, I thank those at the Detroit News, those who are fighting the News and the Free Press for justice and fairness for the American worker.

TAXPAYERS RELIEF ACT OF 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remind my colleagues that tomorrow, part 2 of the budget agreement, the historic agreement that has enabled us today to have a great victory for the American people by saving money, by reforming entitlements, by saving Medicare, that that agreement goes into phase 2 tomorrow with a very, very important Taxpayers Relief Act of 1997.

I want to take just a moment to remind my colleagues of the human side of the Taxpayers Relief Act of 1997. This is a bill which will provide more money for working taxpaying families with children; it will provide more money for folks who are going on to college and vocational and technical school; it will provide more money for families who have family farms or family ranches or family businesses and have the head of the family die and would potentially even lose that business to the IRS; and it provides for more resources to go to savings and investment and job creation, which is very vital if our welfare-to-work reform is going to succeed, because if we are going to ask people to leave welfare to go to work, we have to have enough economic growth, enough new jobs, in order to have the work for people to leave welfare to go to.

So the Taxpayers Relief Act of 1997 is very, very important. Let me put it in personal language. My sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Marilyn and Ray Heddleson out in Leetonia, Ohio have two young boys, Jon and Mark. Jon has graduated from high school, is about to go to college; Mark has one more year in high school. They know that the educational tax components of this is going to help them pay for the cost of those two boys being in school, and they know that when both of those boys are in school, that that is a lot of money for a working, middle class family.

My sister Robin and her husband David have two young girls, my nieces, Emily and Susan. They are not at that age yet, and they know that that \$500 per child tax credit, \$1,000 a year in extra take-home pay for their family means a lot and is going to enable them to do things, whether those things are saving for education, doing something with health care, doing something with the family; frankly, maybe just having fun and bonding closer together because they go on a vacation. I do not think we in Washington should define for parents what they think their priorities are for their children. This \$500 per child tax credit creates the opportunity for those young folks to have a chance to have a better life.

My brother Randy and his wife Jill have two children, my niece Lauren and my nephew, Kevin. Again, they are not of the college-going age yet, but when they think about savings for college with the tax advantages of this bill, when they think about that extra \$1,000 per year in take-home pay, having two children, when they think about the chance for when they go to college or vocational-technical school to have that extra tax credit, they know that we are going to help their family have a better future with this bill.

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My oldest daughter, Kathy, owns a little company called the Carolina Coffee Company down in Greensboro, North Carolina. She actually lives in the district of the gentleman from North Carolina, [Mr. HOWARD COBLE]. She knows, as a small business woman, that this bill is going to make it better for her employees, because they are going to have more take-home pay.

This bill is going to make it better in that college town, because there is going to be more help for people who go on to college and vo-tech school. And this bill has relief in it that helps small businesses.

She is also looking forward to the work that the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. ROB PORTMAN], has done on the commission to simplify and reform the IRS, because she knows if we will simplify taxes and simplify paperwork, we are going to have a dramatically better